

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image-protecting film having a protective layer releasably laminated on a support and to be heat transferred onto an image surface of recorded matter on which an image has been formed,

wherein the surface of the support on which the protective layer is laminated has a surface roughness (Ra) according to JIS-B0601 of from 0.2 to 0.5.

2. The image-protecting film according to claim 1, wherein the protective layer heat transferred onto the image surface provides a surface having a 60-degree specular gloss according to JIS-Z8741 of from 10 to 30%.

3. The image-protecting film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the support comprises a polyethylene terephthalate film containing inorganic particles, and the protective layer is releasably laminated thereon.

4. The image-protecting film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the support comprises a polyethylene terephthalate film that has been subjected to surface-roughening treatment by spraying of inorganic particles, and the protective layer is releasably laminated thereon.

5. The image-protecting film according to any one of claims 1 to 4,

wherein the protective layer comprises a surface protective layer and an adhesive layer sequentially laminated from the support side,

wherein the surface protective layer comprises a continuous phase formed of a thermoplastic resin and a dispersed phase formed of a thermoplastic resin dispersed in the continuous phase,

wherein the thermoplastic resin forming the continuous phase has a glass transition temperature from -50 to 60°C, and the thermoplastic resin forming the dispersed phase has a glass transition temperature of 60°C or higher.

6. The image-protecting film according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the protective layer contains inorganic particles and/or a wax.

7. An image-protecting method comprising:

integrating recorded matter on which an image has been formed, with the image-protecting film according to any one of claims 1 to 6 by heat pressing the protective

layer onto the image surface of the recorded matter to form a laminated sheet; and then,

peeling off the support from the laminated sheet, thereby forming a protective layer on the image surface.

8. The image-protecting method according to claim 7, wherein the recorded matter is a recording sheet that comprises polyolefin resin-coated paper having provided thereon an ink receiving layer, and has an image formed on the ink receiving layer by an ink jet recording system.

9. Overcoated recorded matter having a protective layer for covering an image, on an image surface of recorded matter on which an image has been formed, wherein the protective layer is formed from the protective layer of the image-protecting film according to any one of claims 1 to 6.